

Subject overview of the SSST Literature A Course

SSST (self-taught) Literature A course aims at studying diverse literature genres in the student's native language on a Standard Level which is not officially offered by the school program. The course focuses on private tutoring but the student follows all necessary official regulations and examinations of the school. The course is built upon three **Areas of Exploration** and the student selects three different texts / pieces of work for each area of exploration. The three areas of exploration are:

1. **Readers, Writers, Texts** which aims to introduce students to the notion and purpose of literature and the ways in which texts can be read, interpreted and responded to. Works are chosen from a variety of literary forms. Their study could focus on the relationships between literary texts, readers and writers as well as the nature of literature and should include the investigation of the response of readers, and the ways in which literary texts generate meaning. The focus is on the development of personal and critical responses to the particulars of literary texts.
2. **Time and Space** which draws attention to the fact that texts are not isolated entities, but are connected to space and time. Works are chosen to reflect a range of historical and/or cultural perspectives. Their study focuses on the contexts of literary texts and the variety of ways literary texts might both reflect and shape society at large. The focus is on the consideration of personal and cultural perspectives, the development of broader perspectives, and an awareness of the ways in which context is tied to meaning.
3. **Intertextuality** which focused on the connections between and among diverse texts, traditions, creators and ideas. Works are chosen in a way that allows students an opportunity to extend their study and make fruitful comparisons. Their study focuses on intertextual relationships between literary texts with possibilities to explore various topics, thematic concerns, generic conventions, modes or literary traditions that have been introduced throughout the course. The focus is on the development of critical response which is grounded in understanding of the complex relationships among literary texts.

Across the course, students must study at least 9 different pieces of work /texts / extracts, three from which should be texts in translation, four from which should be texts from the language studied and two of them should be freely chosen texts (translation or mother tongue). The literary forms/genres that should be covered should be at least three (poetry / drama- theatrical play / short stories / novel) and the selected texts should extend to three different time periods from past and present and should relate to at least three different locations, covering two continents.

The assessment of the course contains:

External assessment (3 hours)

Paper 1: Guided literary analysis (1 hour 15 minutes) – 35% of the course's grade

The paper consists of two passages, from two different literary genres, each accompanied by a question. Students choose **one** passage and write an analysis of it. (20 marks) There are four assessment criteria for Paper 1:

Criterion A: Understanding and interpretation - 5 marks

Criterion B: Analysis and evaluation - 5 marks

Criterion C: Focus and organization - 5 marks

Criterion DQ Language - 5 marks

Paper 2: Comparative essay (1 hour 45 minutes) – 35% of the course's grade

The paper consists of four general questions. In response to one question students write a comparative essay based on two different pieces of work studied in the course. (30 marks) There are four assessment criteria for Paper 2:

Criterion A: Knowledge, understanding and interpretation - 10 marks

Criterion B: Analysis and evaluation - 10 marks

Criterion C: Focus and organization - 5 marks

Criterion D: Language - 5 marks

Individual oral (15 minutes) – 30% of the course's grade.

This component consists of an individual oral that is externally assessed by the IB.

Supported by an extract from one work written originally in the language studied and one from a work studied in translation, students will offer a prepared response of 15 minutes to the following prompt:

“Examine the ways in which the global issue of your choice is presented through the content and form of two of the works that you have studied.” (40 marks). There are four assessment criteria for Individual Oral:

Criterion A: Knowledge, Understanding and Interpretation – 10 marks

Criterion B: Analysis and Evaluation – 10 marks

Criterion C: Focus and Organization – 10 marks

Criterion D: Language – 10 marks